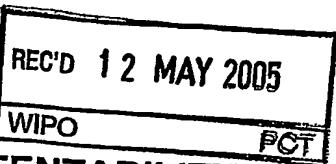


PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)



(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PCT-159	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/EP2004/002512	International filing date (day/month/year) 08.03.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 28.03.2003	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H01B7/00, H01B7/04, H01B5/00, D07B1/06, D07B1/08, D07B1/10			
Applicant GRUPO GENERAL CABLE SISTEMAS, S.A. et al.			

<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> <i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i> a total of 2 sheets, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). <input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box. b. <input type="checkbox"/> <i>(sent to the International Bureau only)</i> a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)), containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions). 	
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the opinion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application 	

Date of submission of the demand 26.07.2004	Date of completion of this report 13.05.2005
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized Officer Wengeler, H Telephone No. +31 70 340-1936

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/002512

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
 - international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements*** of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

Description, Pages

1-4 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-19 received on 26.01.2005 with letter of 24.01.2005

Drawings, Figures

1 as originally filed

- a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
 - the description, pages
 - the claims, Nos.
 - the drawings, sheets/figs
 - the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):
4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
 - the description, pages
 - the claims, Nos.
 - the drawings, sheets/figs
 - the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

* If item 4 applies, some or all of these sheets may be marked "superseded."

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/002512

Box No. II Priority

1. This report has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the failure to furnish within the prescribed time limit the requested:
 copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 66.7(a)).
 translation of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 66.7(b)).
2. This report has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid (Rule 64.1). Thus for the purposes of this report, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.
3. Additional observations, if necessary:

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-19
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-19
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-19
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/002512

For an assessment of novelty and inventive step the following document is presently deemed to be relevant:

D1: US-A-4 550 559

1. Amendments (Art. 19 PCT)

The amendments made to the claims are allowable under Art. 19 PCT.

2. Novelty (Art. 33(2)PCT)

Fig 7 in D1 refers to a cable comprising a central strand and six outer strands around the central strand. The outer strands have polygonal cross-sections having two straight lines and one curved side (col. 5, l. 26- col. 6, l. 68). Cables having no central strand are also possible. In this case the side surfaces (16) of the sheath (20) (see Fig 3) "may converge to a point (col. 3, l. 34-40). In one form of the cable (col. 5, l. 34-45) each strand is made up of a plurality of filaments "of an organic polyamide". However other filament materials can be used as well, such as e.g. steel wires (col. 7, l. 19-29).

The cables of D1 are used as traction cables, e.g. with pulleys (col. 4, l.23).

The subject-matter of claim 1 is distinguished from D1 in that it refers to electric/communication cables having a cross section according to Fig 1.

3. Inventive step (Art. 33 (3) PCT)

None of the prior art documents available from the Search Report disclose or allude to the claimed cable structure. Hence, an inventive step may be acknowledged.

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CLAIMS

1. Metallic conductor for electric and/or communication cable that comprises collected assembly of wires (22); characterized in that conductor (21) assumes predetermined polygonal cross-section comprising one curved side.
- 5 2. Conductor according to Claim 1, in which the polygonal cross-section ~~is comprising~~ at least one straight side.
3. Conductor according to Claim 1, in which the polygonal cross-section has ~~least one curved side~~.
- 10 4. ~~C 3.~~ Conductor according to any one of Claims 2 to 3, in which the polygonal cross-section has comprising a combination of at least one straight side and one curved side.
5. 4. Conductor according to Claim 4-3, in which the polygonal cross-section is a circular sector.
- 15 6. 5. Conductor according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the diameter of each wire (22) is less than or equal to 0.61 mm.
7. 6. Conductor according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the conductor (21) is surrounded by a layer of an insulating material.
- 20 8. 7. Conductor according to Claim 7 6, in which the layer of insulating material is thermoplastic and/or thermosetting, such as polyethylene, polyesters, fluorinated polymer, polyolefin, polyamide, polyimide, polyurethane, polyvinyl chloride, thermoplastic elastomer, ethylene-propylene, polychloroprene or silicon rubber, as well as their compounds and derivatives.
- 25 9. 8. Electric and/or communication cable that comprises a plurality of conductors (21) according to claim 1, electrically insulated from one another, and their turn grouped together by a cabling process under a covering or a common binding element, characterized in that the conductors (21) assume a predetermined polygonal arrangement comprising a curved side.
10. 9. Cable according to Claim 9 8, in which the predetermined polygonal arrangement includes at least one straight side.
- 30 11. ~~Cable according to Claim 9, in which the predetermined polygonal arrangement includes at least one straight side.~~

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(63)

arrangement includes at least one curved side.

12. 10. Cable according to any one of Claims ~~10 to 11~~ 9, in which the predetermined polygonal arrangement includes a combination of at least one straight side and one curved side.
- 5 13. 11. Cable according to Claim ~~9~~ 8, in which the predetermined polygon arrangement is a circle.
14. 12. Cable according to Claim ~~9~~ 8, in which the predetermined polygon arrangement is a rectangle.
- 10 15. 13. Cable according to any one of Claims ~~13 to 14~~ ~~11 to 12~~, in which the cable (23) comprises conductors (21) of different polygonal cross-sections.
16. 14. Cable according to Claim ~~9~~ 8, in which the predetermined polygon arrangement is surrounded by at least one layer of a protective material.
17. 15. Cable according to Claim ~~16~~ 14, in which the layer of protective material is a metallic protective material.
- 15 18. 16. Cable according to Claim ~~16~~ 15, in which the layer of protective material is a thermoplastic and/or thermosetting polymeric protective material.
19. 17. Cable according to Claim ~~16~~ 14, in which the layer of protective material is a textile material applied in the form of a protective belt.
20. 18. Cable according to any one of the Claims ~~17 to 19~~ ~~15 to 17~~, in which the predetermined polygonal arrangement is surrounded by a combination of layers of protective material.
21. 19. Method of manufacture of a metallic conductor (21) according to Claim characterized in that the method comprises at least the stages of:
- Deformation, using a mechanical means of deformation, of a metallic conductor (21) that comprises an assembly of round metallic wires (22) for achieving the predetermined polygonal cross-section, and
- Extrusion, using an extrusion means, of the metallic conductor (21) obtained in the preceding operation.